

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 00753 080200Z

64

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /080 W

----- 097821

O R 080133Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2493

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC HONLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 0753

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AS, US

SUBJ: WHITLAM'S REMARKS IN BANGKOK

REF: A) CINCPAC 042253Z FEB 74; B) BANGKOK 1839

C) BANGKOK 1908; D) BANGKOK 1981

1. DURING TWO-HOUR MEETING WITH WHITLAM'S INTIMATE
POLITICAL COUNSELOR MICK YOUNG, POLCOUNS AND I MADE
VERY CLEAR USG SURPRISE AND DISAPPROVAL OF PM WHITLAM'S
PUBLIC REFERENCE TO LONG-ENDED US BOMBING IN VIET NAM
AS "MORALLY MONSTROUS." I TOLD YOUNG THIS SORT OF
GRATUITOUS SLAP WAS INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO OLD FRIENDS AND
ALLIES AND WOULD CERTAINLY MAKE AN UNFORTUNATE
IMPRESSION ONCE AGAIN IN WASHINGTON. I TOLD YOUNG IT
WAS SIMPLY NOT POSSIBLE TO EXPLAIN AWAY REPETITION OF
THESE INCIDENTS ON GROUNDS THAT PM AND OTHER CABINET
MEMBERS WERE "OVERLY IMPETUOUS IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS".
OR "HAD BEEN OUT OF POWER 23 YEARS AND WERE NOT
ACCUSTOMED TO RESPONSIBILITY." I ADDED THAT WE HAD
GOTTEN OVER MANY BUMPS AND TROUBLES OF ADJUSTMENT
DURING INAUGURAL YEAR OF WHITLAM GOVERNMENT AND
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WERE RE-ESTABLISHING GOOD BASIS OF UNDERSTANDING. IT

WAS IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST TO EMPHASIZE OUR COMMON
VALUES AND COMMON OBJECTIVES RATHER THAN PAST
DIFFERENCES. HOWEVER, INCIDENTS SUCH AS THIS MADE
PROGRESS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT.

2. YOUNG REGISTERED THESE POINTS CLEARLY AND WILL
PASS THEM TO WHITLAM ON LATTER'S RETURN
FEBRUARY 13. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WAS NO WAY TO
PRETEND THAT WHATEVER PM SAID WAS NOT OFFICIAL AND
SIGNIFICANT.
HARROP

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, ANTIAMERICAN, ARMISTICE, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, SPEECHES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CANBER00753
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740247/aaaabrmp.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) CINCPAC 042253Z FEB 74; B) BANGKO, K 1839
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <27 NOV 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WHITLAM'S REMARKS IN BANGKOK
TAGS: PFOR, AS, US, TH, (WHITLAM, E GOUGH), (YOUNG, MICK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005